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Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

Letter dated 4 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to arrange to have this letter and the annex thereto, which contains the Final Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, held in Buenos Aires on 21 and 22 October 1998, circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32.

(*Signed*) Fernando **Petrella**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English]

Final Declaration

The Representatives of the member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA), hereinafter referred to as "The Zone", meeting in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 21 and 22 October 1998.

1.- Recall the Final Declaration and decisions adopted at the Fourth Meeting of member States of the Zone, Somerset West, Republic of South Africa, on 1 and 2 April 1996.

2.- Congratulate the Presidency and Permanent Committee of the Zone for the valuable work done as coordinators since the meeting at Somerset West.

3.- Reaffirm that issues of peace, security and development are interdependent and inseparable, and that economic cooperation and promotion of trade and investments between the Latin American and African countries of the region constitute important aims of the Zone.

4.- Welcome the restoration of democracy in Sierra Leone and Liberia and in that regard commend the active efforts by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the States which have contributed to the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).

5.- While welcoming the recent joint mediation efforts of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and ECOWAS aimed at restoring peace in Guinea-Bissau and security in the region, express their deep concern at the re-opening of hostilities in Guinea-Bissau, call on the Government and the so-called Junta to refrain from any action that can jeopardize the cease-fire agreement reached in Praia (Cape Verde) on 26 July,1998 and call upon the Parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the CPLP and the ECOWAS with a view to moving forward from the cease-fire to a full and lasting settlement.

6- Welcome the Nigerian Government's commitment to carry out the plan for transition to general elections and the establishment of new democratic structures, and welcome the action of the Government in releasing political prisoners as well as the continued progress being made towards full observance of human rights in the country.

7- View with concern the present armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, stress the need to respect the territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and urge the parties to that conflict and the States that have offered their good offces to bring hostilities to an end and to spare no effort in the negotiations leading to the restoration of peace and welcome the positive response by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to the request by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to provide assistance in the restoration of peace and stability in that country. Further welcome the decision of the Democratic Republic of Congo to conduct elections in that country in June of 1999.

8- Welcome the positive steps taken by the Government of Angola in implementing the "Lusaka Protocol" and reiterate that the primary cause of the crisis in Angola and of the current impasse in the peace process is the failure by the leadership of UNITA to comply with its obligations under the "Acordos de Paz", the "Lusaka Protocol" and relevant Security Council resolutions and, in this regard; endorse the Final Communique of the Summit of the Heads of State or Government of the Southern African Development Community adopted on Port Louis, Mauritius, on 14 September1998.

9.- Support efforts by countries of the Zone in finding negotiated solutions for conflicts and in promoting the principle of settling disputes by peaceful means.

10.- Reaffirm the need to support current peace processes in the Zone's region and to contribute to United Nations peace-keeping operations taking place in different parts of the Zone.

11.- Reiterate their conviction that the "Treaty of Tlatelolco" and the "Treaty of Pelindaba", together with the "Antarctic Treaty" and the "Treaty of Rarotonga", and the "Bangkok Treaty" contribute to making the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by the aforementioned treaties free of nuclear weapons.

12.- Welcome the adoption of the November 1997 "Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials", as well as the decision on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons taken at the 34th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in Burkina Faso during June 1998 and stress the need for greater cooperation among members of the Zone in addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons which present a threat to peace and security in the Zone.

13.- Call upon the member States to continue their efforts towards the achievement of appropriate regulation of maritime transport of radioactive and toxic wastes, taking into account the interests of Coastal States, particularly in accordance with the regulations of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

14.- Express their satisfaction at the adoption of Resolution A 853/20 of the Twentieth Assembly of the IMO and the contemplated amendments of Chapter VII of the "International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea" ("SOLAS" Convention) by the Maritime Safety Committee of that Organization.

15.- Agree on the importance of the early entry into force of the "Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 concerning Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks", adopted in New York on 4 August 1995.

16.- Stress the need to avoid cases of fishing vessels flying dual flags and emphasize the importance. for States to consider becoming Parties to the 1993 FAO "Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas".

17.- Agree on the importance of redoubling efforts to provide the private sectors of each of the countries of the Zone with information conducive to a growing relationship more beneficial to all parties. In this context, agree to give special attention to promote South South Cooperation, including the fields of science and technology as well as the development of human resources.

18.- Urge the United Nations to promote technical cooperation between developing countries and support the activities pursued by members of the Zone, in keeping with the goals set forth in Resolution 41/11 and related resolutions, so that their projects and programmes may be financed by the United Nations Development Programme and other competent international organizations.

19. Agree on the importance of conservation and proper management of fresh-water resources and, conscious of its social, economic and political importance, undertake to cooperate within the Zone, with the support of the United Nations and other agencies in order to prevent the degradation and loss of these vital resources.

20- Concerned over the increase in drug trafficking and related crimes, including drug abuse, resolve to promote regional cooperation to combat all aspects of the problem of drugs and related offenses and, therefore, call upon the UNDCP to provide assistance to members of the Zone.

21.- Recognize, in the light of the number, magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and other emergencies, the need to strengthen coordination of humanitarian assistance by members of the Zone, so as to ensure timely and effective response.

22.- Express gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Argentina for its generosity and the excellent arrangements made for the holding of this Meeting.

23.- Welcome the offer made by the Government of Benin to host the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the ZPCSA.

Plan of action

The Representatives of the member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA), hereinafter referred to as "The Zone", meeting in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 21 and 22 October, 1998.

1.- Agree to facilitate intergovernmental exchange of information on trade, agreements in force regarding economic, scientific and technical cooperation, commercial air and maritime services, the promotion and protection of investments, zoo-phytosanitary agreements, public health as well as other related matters.

2.- Call on member States to encourage the business sector to expand and strengthen bilateral and multilateral trade relations between them.

3.- Decide to promote the exchange of information regarding all activities which can contribute to closer ties being established between business enterprises of the countries of the Zone, including trade fairs and commercial missions.

4.- Agree to carry out a review of national and multilateral financial mechanisms which can be used to finance projects in the Zone. In this regard, invite UNCTAD and the World Bank to consider ways and means of helping the members of the Zone to implement the review. Decide also that this information will be provided to the Chair of the Zone who will transmit it to all members.

5.- Urge member States who have not yet done so, to ratify the "Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks" adopted in New York on 4 August 1995.

6.- Undertake to cooperate with each other in providing information regarding the registration of fishing vessels in light of the 1993 FAO "Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas".

7.- Decide to continue developing bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the sphere of prevention of drug abuse and combating drug trafficking and related crimes and to promote, in a coordinated fashion, the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the 20th Special Session on the Illicit Production and Traffic of Amphetamine-type Stimulants, Precursors and Chemical Substances, Erradication of Illicit Drug Crops and the Promotion of Alternative Development Programs, as well as the issues of judicial cooperation and money laundering, which was held from 8 to 10 June 1998, in New York, and reaffirm their determination to achieving concrete results on all the Action Plans adopted by the 20th Special Session. Members of the Zone should

exchange information as to their national action to solve drug problems, with a view to benefiting from each other's experiences.

8.- Reiterate the call for the UNDCP to provide practical assistance, through specifc programmes, with the aim of combating drug trafficking, especially by training of officials, enhancing the capacity of countries in the implementation of drug control, legislation and law enforcement. In that regard, the members of the Zone should identify specific needs and concrete proposals for consideration by the UNDCP.

9- Undertake to consider joint initiatives against the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in small arms and light weapons, ammunition, explosives and other related materials.

10- Urge those States who have not yet done so, to sign, ratify and implement the "Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction", ("Ottawa Convention"), and to cooperate in the field of demining.

11.- Consistent with the relevant United Nations resolutions, encourage members of the Zone to identify and support their respective national focal points and cooperate with the "White Helmets Initiative", in order to address humanitarian emergencies and provide the United Nations system with an accessible global network of rapid response facilities on a standby basis.

12.- Agree to initiate contacts between competent national organs and appropriate international organizations dealing with statistics in order to exchange information relevant to the aims of the Zone, conducive to creating a database based in the city of New York.

13.- Agree to promote closer links, better understanding and a sense of community among Zone members through the exchange of comprehensive information about each country, including political, economic, social and cultural aspects.

14- Agree to establish a focal point in each country in order to facilitate coordination between members States and to communicate this information to the Chair.